

# Coordination for Soil Carbon Research and Monitoring Act

Led by Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan (VA-04) and Congressman Mike Lawler (NY-17)

## SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Experts estimate that soil could store almost 5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide worldwide each year, which equates to preventing about 13 percent of global annual greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere [1]. In addition to these significant climate benefits, soil carbon sequestration helps with the restoration of degraded soil. This makes soil more resilient against extreme weather conditions—including droughts and heavy rainfall—and yields increased agricultural productivity and economic benefits.

However, current soil carbon sequestration research and monitoring efforts across the federal government are fragmented. Given the urgency of the climate crisis and the gaps in existing efforts, a whole-of-government approach with clear leadership and coordination is needed to fully realize the potential of soil carbon sequestration. Additionally, interagency coordination will be essential to ensure robust engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, including farmers and ranchers already experiencing the impacts of climate change, communities, technical assistance providers, and researchers.

## THE SOLUTION

The Coordination for Soil Carbon Research and Monitoring Act would support and streamline federal efforts around soil carbon sequestration. Specifically, it:

- Establishes an Interagency Committee on Soil Carbon Research led by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- Directs the Interagency Committee to develop a cross-agency strategic plan for federal research, development, and deployment regarding soil carbon sequestration sampling and measurement methodologies, measurement and monitoring technologies, and community needs.
- Establishes working groups to coordinate soil carbon research priorities including Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), data collection and management, fundamental research, and community engagement.
- Requires regular reporting to Congress on soil carbon sequestration research and monitoring activities.

## ENDORSEMENTS

*The Coordination for Soil Carbon Research and Monitoring Act is endorsed by Carbon 180, Bipartisan Policy Center Action, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Appalachian Voices.*

### Citations

1. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fclim.2019.00008>